Rejects Conspiracy 7 Probe

BY ROBERT DAVIS

The United States Court of Appeals turned down a request yesterday that it conduct a complete investigation of the Chicago Conspiracy 7 trial because it was a "fraud upon the court."

Sherman Skolnick, court critic, filed his request with the court just a day before scheduled oral arguments on the appeal of the conspiracy and contempt of court convictions set for today and tomorrow.

In a seven-page motion filed with the appeals court, Skolnick branded the entire Conspiracy 7 case as a plot by the government to discredit the antiwar movement in the United States.

To back his claims, Skolnick contended that Rennard Davis and Tom Hayden, two of the defendants, are government agents, backed financially by front groups for the Central Intelligence Agency and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Skolnick maintained that altho five of the seven defendants were convicted of conspiring to incite riots during the 1968 Democratic National Convention, the government has still allowed them to be free to travel. He also claims the government is plotting to eventually have the convictions overturned.

Convicted of conspiracy in the case were Davis, Hayden, Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, and David Dellinger. Each was sentenced to five years on those convictions.

Held in contempt of court and sentenced to terms of up to 4 years were all defendants, including Lee Weiner and John Froines, and also William Kunstler and Leonard Weinglass, the two defense lawyers.